



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 5, 2013

Citizens Reminded to Prepare for Winter Storms

FREDERICK, MD –The Frederick County Department of Emergency Preparedness reminds citizens to take steps and safety precautions now in preparation for tomorrow's snowstorm. The anticipated combination of heavy, wet snow and high winds may make traveling difficult and can bring down trees, utility poles, power lines and communication towers.

Preparedness tips:

- Supplies of clean drinking water and foods that can be eaten without cooking are important emergency items in any season. Consider special needs such as medicine -- keep enough on hand for several days.
- Keep an eye on neighbors, particularly those who are elderly, who are caring for young children or living alone.
- Stay indoors during the storm.
- Walk carefully on snowy and icy walkways.
- Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. Let someone know the destination, the route and expected arrival time.
- Park vehicles away from trees and power lines when possible.
- Register for emergency messages at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ALERT.

If you lose power:

- Closing off unneeded rooms and congregating in the warmest room with a supply of blankets will help conserve the heat in the house.

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- DO NOT use candles for light. Candles are a leading cause of house fires. Instead, stock battery-operated lights, such as flashlights, and a good supply of batteries.
- Keep a battery-operated radio and batteries on hand to stay abreast of news and information. A corded telephone that is plugged directly into the jack can operate without electricity.
- Maintain ventilation when using kerosene heaters to avoid build-up of toxic fumes. Refuel kerosene heaters outside and keep them at least three feet from flammable objects.

General information during the storm will be available at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov, Frederick County Government TV, cable channel 19, social media sites and local television and radio news outlets. An up-to-date listing of road closures is available at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/roadsclosed.

For additional preparedness tips, visit the Frederick County Government website www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/READY or contact the Department of Emergency Preparedness at EM@FrederickCountyMD.gov or 301-600-1746.

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